



Mayor's Office, City of Houston

Office of International Affairs & Development

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Message from the Mayor

Thanks to your input, feedback, and support, this newsletter has grown and has become one of the avenues that the City of Houston connects with our communities and the world.



Bill White

For 2006, it is among my list of goals to make Houston even more competitive in attracting entrepreneurs and private business owners, to further increase the mobility of metropolitan region, to build upon the accomplishments in revitalizing our historic neighborhoods, and to take bold steps in making our city the model of efficient energy use. These goals, I am proud to say, are very much possible because Houston is truly America's city of opportunities and is open to all who wish to make a difference.

Bill White, Mayor

Message from the Director

It is our pleasure to inform you that Mayor Bill White recently announced the newly formed Houston City Council International Committee comprised of Councilmembers Adrian Garcia, Jarvis Johnson, M.J. Khan (committee chair), and Shelley Sekula-Gibbs. Together, we look forward to serving our great city's international community and promoting all international initiatives for the city.



Helen T. Chang

As we celebrate the one-year anniversary of the International Newsletter, it is our hope that this publication will continue to link Houston to the world.

Helen T. Chang, Director

January 2006 Highlights

Greater Houston Partnership Shows the Power to Shape Houston's Future

January 13th marked another milestone for the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP). At the 17th annual general meeting and board elections, the Partnership reflected on a year's worth of successful programs aimed at establishing a regional presence, carrying out strategic goals and asserting legislative clout. At the meeting, new members were ratified to the board and Charles (Chip) Carlisle was recognized as the new chairman.



Jodie Jiles (left) and Charles (Chip) Carlisle

Did You Know?

The Partnership's history dates back to before the 1840's, with the first group of businessmen who came together in Houston for the purposes of improving the quality of life and commerce in the city. Today, GHP represents almost 2,000 member companies that employ one of every four Houston area workers.

Source: www.houston.org

Jodie Jiles signed out of his chairmanship on a high note, pointing to the development of the Partnership's strategic plan as the guidepost for Houston's growth in the next decade. Carlisle then inaugurated the new theme for 2006 – "Houston: the Shining Star of the North," under which the Partnership seeks to maintain and expand Houston's international and regional competitiveness by supporting our high technology industries and aiding improvements in port infrastructure. – **By Matthew Shailer**

Nanotechnology: the Big Business of Micro Technology

On January 20, the Rice Alliance hosted its 5th annual Nanotechnology Venture Forum at Jones Graduate School of Management. As many as 20 nanotechnology-related companies and 400 industry leaders gathered together to discuss the latest research and development in nanotechnology, and to gain a business perspective of the future implications of the field.

Did You Know?

Up until a few years ago, gold was considered to be one of the most chemically inert metals, which unlike platinum could not catalyze chemical reactions. Recent discovery, however, has shown that when the size of gold particles is reduced to less than 3 nanometers, it becomes highly catalytically-active material.

Source: Rice University



Bringing over 400 technology leaders and scholars, the forum showcases the cutting-edge commercial applications of nanotechnology.

The presence of nanotechnology within current means of production is highly pervasive; as clothing, building materials, cosmetics, sporting goods and even some cancer treatments incorporate nanotechnology. The Nanotechnology Venture Forum seeks to help connect the latest research and development with the business community to construct a mutually beneficial partnership. For more information, visit www.cnst.rice.edu. – **Alex Tang**

56 Years of Democracy Celebrated

January 26th has long been an auspicious day for India, and even 56 years later the celebration for 2006 was no exception. Consul General Shashishekhar Madhukar Gavai of India hosted a glittering event at the Hilton Hotel recognizing the achievement of over half a

Did You Know?

January 26, 1950, is one of the most important days in Indian history as it was on this day that the constitution of India came into force and India became a truly sovereign state. On this day, India became a totally republican unit.

Source: <http://festivals.tajonline.com>

century of political independence and the blessings of constitutionality.

Reps. Tom Delay and Sheila

Jackson Lee formally recognized the celebration, and paid tribute to the strong ties that exist between India and the United States, as well as the particular importance that Houston's Indian community has in the city.

– By Matthew Shailer



Indian Consul General Rina Gavai

Annual State of the City Address: Houston, the Dynamic and Favorable City

For Houston, the 3rd *State of the City Address*, hosted by the Greater Houston Partnership on January 26, was an in depth assessment of our city's current trajectory. Bringing in attendance of more than 1,400 government and business leaders, non-profit organizations, as well as major media outlets, Mayor Bill White outlined Houston's future directions to the public in clear language and identifiable goals, focusing primarily on a variety of policy issues such as traffic congestion, crime and security, education, energy efficiency, and site-specific improvement for some of Houston's neighborhoods.



Mayor White describes Houston as an international city, which many of the fastest growing and dynamic business are owned and managed by people from multi-national backgrounds.

Did You Know?

Houston ranks as one of the top U.S. cities in which to raise a family, according to *Child*. It also ranks as one of the 50 healthiest cities for men according to *Men's Health*. Given the city's 293 parks and playgrounds, bayous, beaches, recreational lakes and rivers, it's easy to see why.

Source: <http://www.debakeydepartmentofsurgery.org>

Mayor White spoke with pride of Houston's commendable performance during the two devastating Hurricanes, Katrina and Rita. The selfless actions of Houstonians and the effective coordination of the City have earned accolades and reassessments from around the country and from around the globe, and have instilled a new vitality to the city. Mayor White thanked the citizens who provide assistance everyday, the support given to city officials, exemplifying how people with different views and background can work together to attain common goals and get things done.

– By Anne Lee



Dr. Sharon Brown-Hruska, commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission

Industry Leaders Say Energy Boom Could Go On for Decades

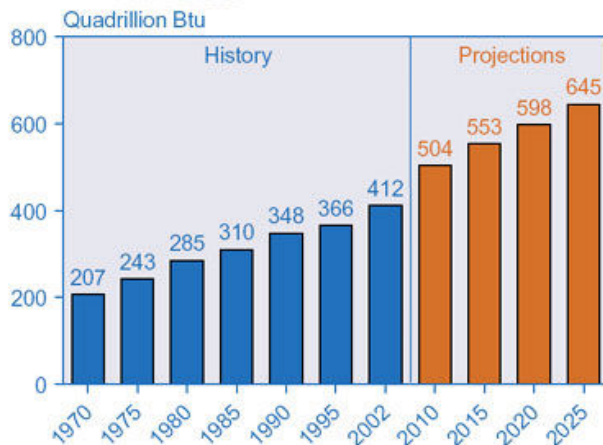
On January 26, the 4th Annual Energy Trading & Marketing Conference was held at the University of Houston Hilton Hotel. Today, as the world's energy demand rises unabated, Michael Cosgrove, CEO of Amerex, stated, "We believe this energy boom has just begun."

Among other speakers were Dr. Sharon Brown-Hruska, commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and Arleen Spangler, director of Standard and Poor's, and George Baker, principal of Williams & Jensen, who spoke about market needs, risk management and the legislative environment of energy trading.

– By Viridiana Jimenez

Did You Know?

Figure 7. World Marketed Energy Consumption, 1970-2025



Sources: **History:** Energy Information Administration (EIA), *International Energy Annual 2002*, DOE/EIA-0219(2002) (Washington, DC, March 2004), web site www.eia.doe.gov/iea/. **Projections:** EIA, *System for the Analysis of Global Energy Markets* (2005).

Upcoming Major Events

Tampico and Houston: the Extended Friendship

On February 1, Mayor Fernando Ascarraga Lopez of Tampico will be present at a ceremony in Houston that demonstrates the strong ties binding our two cities together. Mayor Lopez will receive a donation of fire equipment from the City of Houston as a gesture of friendship and sorority.

Mayor Lopez has long made a strengthened and multi-level partnership with Houston a key item on his agenda, seeking out enriching dialogues on education, business and cultural awareness. Tampico and Houston, though long connected by oil and energy trade, newly initiated their sister city agreement in April, 2003. A Texas state ordinance encourages any donation from a city's fire department to be first offered to one of its sister cities. This gift is one of the first extended in kind between the two cities, and is an extended friendship to our sister city. For more information, contact 713-247-3595. – By Matthew Shailer

Did You Know?

Tampico will be the site for the 2006 Border Energy Forum, October 19-20. This will be the 13th annual forum and will address cross-border energy issues such as oil and gas recovery, sustainable energies, water access, and many other potent topics. Tampico is the center of the Mexican oil industry and is the natural location for such a summit.

Source: <http://www.glo.state.tx.us>

Annual Ambassador Forum Discusses Growing China

The Asia Society of Texas will hold its annual Ambassadors' Forum & Corporate Conference on February 3 at the InterContinental Hotel featuring Chinese Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong and Singaporean Ambassador Chan Heng Chee.

Under the theme: "the developing role of China within Southeast Asia and the implications this presence has for U.S. businesses," the forum includes speakers from a variety of backgrounds and institutional perspectives, including representatives of the Center for Naval Analysis, the Department of Commerce and the area's cultural and community organizations. For more information, contact 713-439-0051.

– **By Matthew Shailer**

Did You Know?

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. These 10 countries together are home to more than 500 million people, and boast a collective GDP of US\$750 billion.

The region hosts approximately US\$88 billion in U.S. direct investment, is the 3rd largest overseas market for U.S. exports, and two-way ASEAN-U.S. trade totaled US\$127 billion in 2003.

Source: www.us-asean.org

Houston Shows Path to Success

The 20th annual Career and Education Day, sponsored by the Houston Hispanic Forum, will showcase Houston's shining commitment to education and to the youth culture of today. A subtle testament to the importance of Houston's international character, the Career and Education Day began as an outreach to Hispanic school-aged youth to promote graduation and matriculation rates, and has grown to encompass every student of different background in the Houston area.

Did You Know?

2 local companies, Centerpoint Energy and BP, are sponsoring interactive plazas that will enable participants to download the Texas Common Application and the FAFSA, access financial aide information, and initiate application process. BP is additionally offering up to \$30,000 in college scholarships to students who have applied through school.

Source: The Houston Hispanic Forum

A projected 15,000-17,000 attendants are expected to fill Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center on February 4 for the daylong educational and instructional activities. Local businesses will staff up to 57 career panels as well as two interactive plazas aiding participants in the application processes. The Career and Education Day is a free community event and is open to students and people of all ages. For more information, contact 713-522-8077. – **By Matthew Shailer**

Houston Welcomes His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al-Faisal

On February 7, join the Houston World Affairs Council along with the U.S. / Arab Bilateral Chamber of Commerce in welcoming His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al-Faisal on his first visit to Houston. The event will brief participants on the current U.S.-Saudi partnership and will address various social and economic challenges that exist in the pursuit of building on this important relationship.

The theme to His Royal Highness' visit is the depiction of the United States and Saudi Arabia as "partners in prosperity and security," highlighting the shared interests that bind our two nations so closely.

The event will be held at the River Oaks Country Club. For more information, e-mail programs@bilateralchamber.org.

– **By Tiffany Ching**

Did You Know?

Prince Turki Al-Faisal is the Saudi Ambassador to the United States as of July 20, 2005. He has since been Arabia's ambassador to the UK and Ireland. He was appointed as an Advisor in the Royal Court in 1973 and from 1977 to 2001 he was the director of the Kingdom's foreign intelligence service. He was born in Mecca and educated at Princeton, Cambridge, and Georgetown.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk.stm>

Business Briefing on Iraq's Oil and Gas Sector

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) will host a briefing on Iraq's oil and gas sector on February 8 at the InterContinental Hotel featuring representatives from Iraqi Ministries of Oil, Finance, Planning, the Central Bank of Iraq, as well as nongovernmental representatives such as the North and South Oil Company.

Together these representatives will collaborate in presenting background information regarding their country's oil and gas capabilities as well as their production strategies for the upcoming years. This informative meeting will also provide U.S. energy companies and financial institutions the opportunity to meet Iraqi counterparts through one-on-one dialogue.

The briefing will highlight upcoming investment opportunities, encourage greater market familiarity among Houston companies, and will discuss today's technology in the oil and gas sector. For more information, contact 866-636-4729. – **By Tiffany Ching**

Did You Know?

The oil sector dominates Iraq's economy. It is responsible for about three quarters of the country's GDP and roughly 90% of the country's foreign exchange earnings. Iraq has an estimated 112 billion barrels of possible oil resources.

Source: <http://www.iraqdevelopmentprogram.org>

Houston Connects to Our Neighbor in the South

Following on the heels of the successful Belize trade mission of 2005, the Tri-County Black Chamber of Commerce is organizing a second trip on March 23-26 to Belize City.

State Sen. Rodney Ellis and City Councilman Ronald Green will lead the delegation of business leaders and Tri-County Chamber members in an attempt to generate channels for bilateral trade between our two cities. As a capstone to the trade mission, Prime Minister Said Musa of Belize will conclude the “Partners in Trade” agreement between Belize City and Houston, with Councilman Green signing on behalf of Mayor Bill White. For more information, visit www.tcbcc.com. – **By Matthew Shailer**

Did You Know?

Belize is only a two-hour flight from Houston, and is our closest neighbor in Central America. Belize is a primarily English-speaking country, and possesses a multitude of opportunities for trade and partnership with Houston businesses, especially those involved in tourism, travel and agricultural industries.

Energy Sector Takes its Bearings in Upcoming Global Petroleum Show

Petroleum and energy have always been critical to today’s economy, but in the recent years the subject has undeniably assumed even greater importance. On June 13-15, the city of Calgary, Canada, will host the Global Petroleum Show (GPS). This biennial event is Canada’s largest oil and gas industry trade event, drawing over 50,000 visitors from 85 countries and featuring over 1,600 exhibitors. GPS presents a tremendous array of networking and many other opportunities for the entire spectrum of the energy sector. During the most recent show, 81 Houston-area companies exhibited their products and services at the 2004 GPS.

Did You Know?

Calgary perhaps is the world’s expert in achieving environmentally friendly petrochemical development. According to the 2004 international survey released in London, Canadian cities rank among the best in the world for clean, healthy lifestyles, where Calgary is the world’s best city.

Source: <http://cnews.canoe.ca>

Calgary, Canada’s “Heart of the New West” and the nation’s Energy Capital, is positioned to be a key city in the future energy investments, estimated to be over \$100 billion in the next two decades.

To emphasize the Houston strategic partnership that we share with Calgary, Mayor Bill White will be speaking at this year’s GPS on June 13, 2006. For more information, contact 713-247-3595 or visit www.petroileumshow.com.

– **By David Chang**

Sister City Spotlight – Istanbul *former* Κωνσταντινούπολις

This month the International Newsletter will continue to showcase each one of Houston's 16 sister cities around the globe with a closer look at each distinctive locale. This month we feature Istanbul, Turkey.

Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey, became Houston's sister city in 1988. It has a population of 9.4 million and more than 10 million people live in the greater metropolitan region. Located along the Bosphorus Strait, the city serves as the crossing point between Asia and Europe. This strategic location has allowed the city control over the route between Asia and Europe as well as passages from the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea.

Originally founded by Greek colonists as Byzantium, the city was made the eastern capital of the Roman Empire in 324 A.D. Byzantium was renamed Nova Roma (New Rome) but was soon known as Constantinople, the city of Constantine. When the Republic of Turkey was founded in 1923, the capital was moved to Ankara. Istanbul became the official name of the city in 1930.



Istanbul, Turkey

During the 1950s and 1960s the city underwent great structural change. The population of Istanbul began to increase rapidly in the 1970s as people migrated to the city for employment in the new factories that were constructed on the outskirts. This sudden surge in population caused a rapid rise in housing development and many previously outlying villages became engulfed into the greater metropolis of Istanbul.

Did You Know?

The name İstanbul comes from the Greek words *εις την Πόλη* – *eis tin Poli* (pronounced [is tim boli]) or *στην Πόλη*, from ancient Greek *eis tēn Polin*, meaning "in the city" or "to the city", constantinople being the largest city in the world.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Istanbul>

The city is similar to Houston in that it is a place of diversity. Having gone through three distinct periods of differing culture, diversity is an intrinsic component of Istanbul. Strong business ties link Houston to Istanbul. At least 11 Houston companies have subsidiaries in Turkey. In 2004, seaborne trade with Turkey was valued at more than \$1.1 billion and air cargo trade was valued at more than \$30 million.

The Houston-Istanbul Sister City Association coordinates several events throughout the year with the American Turkish Association including the annual Turkish Festival. For more information on the Istanbul association and their activities, contact the Houston International Protocol Alliance at 713-227-3395.

– By Alma D. Maldonado

Special Thanks

Article submitted by Alma D. Maldonado, Houston International Protocol Alliance.

Meet the Consular Corps in Houston

Russia РОССИЯ

This month we go to the world's largest natural gas reserves to speak with the Honorable Nikolay Sofinskiy, Russian Consul General in Houston, to discuss everything from energy to humanitarian challenges posed by both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



Consul General
Nikolay Sofinskiy

Perhaps the true test of character for an international city is the way in which guests of different nationalities and backgrounds are welcomed into city life. “My greatest impression of Houston is of its people and the general atmosphere of openness and hospitality,” says Consul General Sofinskiy, speaking about his favorite aspect of living in Houston.

In the last two years since the Russian Consulate first began its mission in 8 Southern states, including Texas, Consul General Sofinskiy has transformed the welcome of an international city into a shared passion for expanding dynamic trade opportunities and developing a comprehensive partnership. Consul General Sofinskiy is accustomed to working on behalf of Russia, and has represented his country by working at the Russian Embassy in Madrid and at the Ministry of Foreign

Did You Know?

Consul General sees education, research and business dialogues as the 3 main channels towards future trade between our two regions. Recently the Russian Consulate enabled the University of Houston to establish contact with higher education institutions in Moscow. The close ties forged between the Space Programs of Russia and the United States is in part derived from the relationship between the Consulate and Johnson Space Center.



Map of Russia

Affairs in Moscow. Drawing from the wealth of his experiences elsewhere, Consul General Sofinskiy has extended the welcome to Houston and pursued projects of common interest to both Russia and the Houston area.

“Houston is already the number one gateway for Russia in terms of trade with the United States,” says Consul General Sofinskiy. More specifically, Russia and the United States have embarked upon a “Bilateral Energy Dialogue” to further develop the energy trade in both countries. Signed in Houston, the agreement is a “very important economic and political sign for the future,” notes the Consul General. When asked how the Consulate is working to promote a better dialogue between Russia and its Houston counterparts, Consul General’s answer has multiple levels. Community involvement has long been a hallmark of his office, most notably the Russian Consulate’s significant responses to the humanitarian challenges posed by both Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Additionally the consulate office implemented the *Year of Russia* festivities in 2003, a major success at showcasing the culture of Russia to Houston. “We definitely wish our American partners will take it into consideration,” says Consul General Sofinskiy of the prospects for future connections, because—as he puts it—“imagination is our [only] limit!”

– By Matthew Shailer

International Hub: Greater Houston Partnership

The latest U.S. Census figures report that every day there are 300 more people living in Houston than the day before. Every year, another 100,000 people come to our region; and the Greater Houston Partnership, the primary advocate of Houston's business community, is dedicated to building strong economic prosperity for the people who currently reside here and for these newcomers.



Jeff Moseley, president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership

Charged with helping to achieve this ambitious goal is Jeff Moseley, president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership. Prior to joining the Partnership, Moseley was the CEO of the Office of the Governor for Economic Development and Tourism, a position he held from 2003 to 2005. Under his leadership, Texas won the coveted Governor's Cup award from Site Selection

magazine. The yearly award is given to the state that has the most facilities announcements for the year.

The Partnership's new 2005-2015 strategic plan began with the question, "What is the best path for building economic prosperity in the Houston region over the coming decades?" After months of research, members of the Partnership and stakeholders representing virtually all aspects of the region concluded that the "Houston region's economic future is tied to its ability to attract companies to locate, expand and maintain their operations here, and for Houston area companies to sell their products and services abroad and/or to operate overseas."

To establish the Houston region as the leading gateway to global markets will require the achievement of three major goals of the Partnership. First, the Partnership wants to increase regional foreign trade over the next ten years from \$104.6 billion to \$225. billion. Second, a plan has been developed to substantially increase direct foreign investment in the region by the end of 2015. Finally, Houston needs to be established as one of the top four international trade regions in the U.S.

There are specific tools to implement these goals within the plan. Awareness about the regional ports and airports, the I69 corridor, the regional railroad infrastructure and other regional entry points will be created to portray Houston as an international hub for commerce.

"Globalization is a phenomenon, and its impact has revolutionized businesses in the Houston region. We at the Partnership invite the international community here to join us in our goal of growing jobs. At the end of the coming decade, we will look back to the ideas in our strategic plan and see a new Houston with young people and new industries eager to move here, renewed vitality in our core industries and a leading position in the global arena," said Moseley.

– By Mary Jane Wakefield

Did You Know?

It has been 14 years since the Greater Houston Partnership developed a strategic plan. During that time period, the Partnership has evolved as the organizational umbrella for what had been three distinct entities-Houston Chamber of Commerce, Houston Economic Development Council and the Houston World Trade Association.

The Global Bridge: The Australian American Chamber of Commerce in Houston

Each month the International Newsletter will feature a section "The Global Bridge" introducing the chambers of commerce in Houston dedicated to promoting Houston's international image.

The Australian American Chamber of Commerce of Houston (AACC) was founded in 1988 in response to the growth of business and economic relations between Australia and Texas and other parts of the Southwest. The Chamber is incorporated in Texas as a non-profit corporation and is managed by a voluntary Board. It functions independently of the Australian government although it enjoys the patronage and support of the Australia Ambassador in Washington.

AACC provides members at both corporate and individual levels with many opportunities throughout the year to network and improve business and social links between the US and Australia. The Chamber also encourages members to participate in forums for trade and investment issues and leverages strong links with other Asia-Pacific organizations for the benefit of the membership. In January, AACC hosted a visit for the Australian Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources, Hon. Ian Macfarlane and the Australian Ambassador to the United States, Hon. Dennis Richardson. A dinner was held at the River Oaks Country Club. The support from both Australian and American corporate sponsors is a reflection of the nature of the Chamber and of its strong business ties with Australia.

AACC also hosts a number of events throughout the year to celebrate Australia's cultural heritage, and the 26th of January marked the celebration of Australia Day. This national holiday commemorates the formal possession of the colony of New South Wales and foundation of Australia in 1788. It is Australia's biggest day of celebration where the nation comes together to celebrate what's great about Australia and being Australian. In communities across the nation, Australians take to the streets, parks and backyards to

celebrate the land, people, heritage, diversity and freedom of Australia.

The Chamber is also part of a growing network of Australian American Chambers of Commerce in the United States under the umbrella of AACC National and enjoys the benefits of that association. AACC National currently has chapters in 14 states, including Texas. Greg Foley has been the President of AACC Houston for 4 years and is also the President of the AACC National body. A National AACC Conference is held each year and the conference continued its

focus on the Australian-American Free Trade Agreement.

So whether you want to improve your business relations, are interested in finding out more about the AACC or you're just looking for an excuse to have fun with



(from left to right) Dennis Richardson, Australian Ambassador to the US, Ian Macfarlane MP, Minister for Industry, Tourism & Resources, Australia, Greg Foley, President of AACC Houston and Nana Booker AM, Consul of Australia Houston.

Australians, join the AACC Sundowner, held every 2nd Wednesday of the month. For more information, visit www.aacc-houston.org.

Special Thanks

Article submitted by the Australian American Chamber of Commerce Houston.

International Frontier – Tilman Fertita

Every month we focus on a Houstonian who has made an indelible mark on our city through outstanding contributions and services to the growth of Houston as an international city.



Tilman Fertita

A native Texan, Tilman Fertita developed a passion for Houston that has stayed with him throughout the years as he has developed his business endeavors while improving Houston's international reputation.

Fertita is the chairman of the board, president, CEO and the largest shareholder of Landry's Restaurants, Inc., one of America's largest casual dining and entertainment companies. Since going public in 1993, Landry's has been one of the best performing restaurant stocks on Wall Street. He is also the president and sole shareholder of Fertita Hospitality, L.L.C., a hotel, development and entertainment company.

A hotel management and business graduate of Texas Tech University and the University of Houston, Fertita started Landry's restaurant in 1986, soon expanding the concept into a chain. Today, Landry's restaurants includes over 300 properties, including Landry's Seafood House, Joe's Crab Shack, Cadillac Restaurant, Chart House and Saltgrass Restaurant, Rainforest Café, Aquarium, and a signature group. While Houstonians are familiar with these Landry's restaurants, they may not realize that the company has an international presence. Rainforest Cafes are located in Canada, England, France, Japan and Mexico; and are installed at all Disney properties worldwide, except the Hong Kong location. The most recent international expansion is the establishment

of a Joe's Crab Shack in Cairo, Egypt, to be completed in the near future. In recent years, Landry's has played a pivotal role in the economic revitalization of downtown Houston. With the opening of Downtown Aquarium in February, 2003, Fertita was the first to successfully introduce family entertainment into a sophisticated urban setting. Hundreds of international tourists visit this restaurant each year. "I love that I can go to downtown Houston at nine on a Saturday night and know that I am in a global city," says Fertita. Another major downtown investment of Landry's is the Inn at the Ballpark, a boutique luxury hotel which is a favorite pre-game gathering spot.

Fertita has also devoted time to city athletics as a partner for more than ten years with the Houston Rockets, and as a minority partner in the NFL's Houston Texans. He has also served on numerous boards, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Children's Charity and Boy Scouts of America. Houston's international stature will continue to increase as "the city provides comfort and support of these diverse cultures," according to Fertita. Ever the developer, Fertita describes one of his main goals as "continuing to be creative and entertain Houston!"

– By Mary Jane Wakefield

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is published monthly by
the Office of
International Affairs and
Development,
Mayor's Office,
City of Houston**

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**Next Submission Deadline:
February 20, 2006**

February – 2006 Event Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Venue/Contact	
Jan 29 – Feb 14	--	Asian/Pacific American Heritage Association: Lunar New Year Celebrations	Venue:	Area High Schools
			Contact:	713-784-1112
Feb 1	--	City of Houston Mayor's Office: Delegation led by Mayor Fernando Ascarraga Lopez of Tampico	Venue:	--
			Contact:	713-247-3595
Feb 1	6:00pm- 7:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Feeling the Heat – European and U.S. Views on Climate Change	Venue:	The Westin Galleria
			Contact:	713-522-7811
Feb 1	6:30pm	University of Houston: Arrival Awards recognizing immigrant achievement	Venue:	Hilton Americas
			Contact:	713-743-2201
Feb 2	7:30am	Houston Networking News: Breakfast meeting	Venue:	Amazon Grill
			Contact:	281-778-6661
Feb 2	11:30am- 1:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Dirty Money and its Consequences for the Global Economy	Venue:	The Petroleum Club
			Contact:	713-522-7811
Feb 2	6:00pm- 8:00pm	Houston Airport System and Greater Houston Partnership: Welcome Reception for New Director of Field Operation, Department of Homeland Security, Jeffrey O. Baldwin	Venue:	Westin Oaks Hotel
			Contact:	713-844-3635
Feb 3	7:15am- 9:00am	Houston Technology Center: Technology Champions Meeting	Venue:	HTC
			Contact:	713-658-1750
Feb 3	9:00am- 1:30pm	Asia Society Texas: Annual Ambassadors' Forum, China and Southeast Asia	Venue:	InterContinental Hotel
			Contact:	713-439-0051
Feb 3	6:30pm	Asia Society Texas: Tiger Ball 2006	Venue:	InterContinental Hotel
			Contact:	713-439-0051
Feb 3	8:30am- 1:45pm	Greater Houston Partnership: China and Southeast Asia	Venue:	InterContinental Hotel
			Contact:	713-439-0051
Feb 4	8:30am- 3:00pm	Hispanic Women in Leadership: 20th Annual Houston Hispanic Forum Career & Education Day	Venue:	George R. Brown Convention Center
			Contact:	713-522-8077
Feb 4	11:30am	Southern Chinese Daily News: New Year Celebration	Venue:	11122 Bellaire Blvd.
			Contact:	281-498-4310
Feb 4	6:30pm	Asian American Real Estate Association: 2006 Spring Gala	Venue:	Ocean Palace
			Contact:	713-965-9060
Feb 6	9:30am	Greater Houston Partnership: India – Business Opportunities in Manufacturing	Venue:	GHP
			Contact:	713-844-3662
Feb 7	10:30am- 1:00pm	HISD: State of the Schools 2006 luncheon	Venue:	George R. Brown
			Contact:	713-892-6298
Feb 7	12:30pm- 2:00pm	The Harris County District Attorney's Office: Prohibited Exotic Species in Texas luncheon	Venue:	Ocean Palace
			Contact:	713-782-7222

Feb 7	5:00pm-6:00pm	Houston World Affairs Council: The United States and Saudi Arabia, Partners in Prosperity and Security featuring His Royal Highness Prince Turki Al-Faisal	Venue: Contact:	River Oaks Country Club 713-522-7811
Feb 8	8:00am-5:00pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Iraq Oil and Gas Sector Briefing	Venue: Contact:	InterContinental Hotel 866-636-4729
Feb 8	6:00pm-7:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Debate, Democracy and Development, lessons from India and Cultural Pluralism	Venue: Contact:	The Junior League 713-522-7811
Feb 9	8:30am	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: How to Market Effectively on Any Budget	Venue: Contact:	Devry University 713-644-7070
Feb 9	Noon-1:00pm	Houston International Protocol Alliance: Learn at Lunch- Jamaica	Venue: Contact:	Visitor's Center 713-227-3395
Feb 9	6:15pm	Consulate-General of Japan in Houston: Old Turned New, New Turned Old, The Minka Movement lecture	Venue: Contact:	Museum of Fine Arts 713-652-2977
Feb 10	7:15am-9:00am	Houston Technology Center: Manufacturing – Industrialization of Bio and Advanced Materials	Venue: Contact:	HTC 713-658-1750
Feb 10	11:30am-1:15pm	Asian Chamber of Commerce: February monthly luncheon featuring Mayor Bill White	Venue: Contact:	Westin Oaks Hotel 713-782-7222
Feb 11	6:30pm	Chinese Professional Club: Annual Scholarship Gala	Venue: Contact:	Westin Oaks dsswong@yahoo.com
Feb 11	7:00pm	Chinese Civic Center: 10-Year Anniversary	Venue: Contact:	Phoenix Seafood Restaurant 713-772-1133
Feb 11, 12	7:30pm, 3:00pm	Gente De Teatro: El dia que me quieras	Venue: Contact:	Rice University 713-721-9640
Feb 12	Noon-5:00pm	United Association of Chinese Alumni: Festival of Lanterns	Venue: Contact:	Phoenix Seafood Restaurant 713-304-5636
Feb 15	7:30am	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Networking Breakfast and Mini Trade Fair	Venue: Contact:	Westin Oaks Hotel 21 st Floor 713-644-7070
Feb 16	11:30am-1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Networking Luncheon	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Houston Post Oak 713-844-3694
Feb 19	7:30pm	Chinese New Year Global Gala	Venue: Contact:	Stafford Center 713-569-6543
Feb 22	TBD	Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce: Arab Voice Speak to American Hearts Educational Program	Venue: Contact:	UH, Clear Lake 713-880-8168
Feb 22	5:30pm	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: After Hours Networking Mixer	Venue: Contact:	Hacienda Del Sol 713-644-7070
Feb 23	Noon-1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: State of the County Address	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas 713-844-3650

Feb 23	6:00pm-8:00pm	Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Hispanic Lecture Series	Venue:	Memorial Hermann Texas Medical Center
			Contact:	713-644-7070
Feb 28	8:00am-10:00am	The Asian Chamber of Commerce: Growing Your Business Through Certification workshop	Venue:	Hilton Garden Inn
			Contact:	713-782-8676
Feb 28	6:00pm-7:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Land Reform Lessons from Zimbabwe	Venue:	University of St. Thomas
			Contact:	713-522-7811

Opportunity:

International Leadership Foundation Announces 2006 Summer Fellowships for Asian Pacific American College Students in Washington, DC

Deadline: Friday, February 3, 2006

The International Leadership Foundation (ILF) will award up to 30 internships in order to help Asian Pacific American college students, the future arts, business, community, legal, medical or professional leaders, to better understand the U.S. government. Each ILF fellow will spend 8 weeks during the summer working for a federal government agency in Washington, DC.

Any undergraduate student in good academic standing may apply. Applicants must be United States citizens or legal residents. For more information, visit www.ILEADER.org, or call (202) 258-5023. Applications must be received by February 3, 2006.



We have one simple goal: to promote Houston as a renowned international city.

The contents are intended for general information purposes only.